(c) what steps are being taken by Government to restart these dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) 132 retail outlets (petrol-diesel pumps) and 151 LPG distributorships are lying closed/suspended in different parts of the country owing to a variety of reasons like malpractices/irregularities, non-performance, financial problems, land/family disputes, litigations, cancellation of mandatory licences, benami operation, death of proprietor, road closure/diversion, police case, etc. Restart, by the respective oil companies, of the operation of such dealerships/distributorships, other than those which are *subjudice* or where punitive action against the errant dealers/distributors is contemplated, will depend on the merit of each case.

Shortage of crude in Assam Refineries

752. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the strategy to meet the shortage of crude to Assam Refineries;

(b) whether ONGC and OIL have been surveying and digging wells vigorously to extract necessary crude locally in Assam; and

(c) whether ONGC has decided to produce crude from the Nagaland Oilfield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In order to supplement the availability of crude oil in the four refineries of NE region, Government have allocated 1.5 million metric tonne of indigenous Ravva Crude Oil to them for the year 2003-04, which would lead to about 85% capacity utilization for all the NE refineries.

During the Xth Five Year Plan ONGC and OIL have stepped up their exploration and production activities in Assam.

(c) Efforts by ONGC are on to resume exploration and development activities in Changpang area of Nagaland.